

2nd April 2019

To all CATG chairs and members

Cabinet Office
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

Your ref:

Our ref:

Dear CATG Members

Freight Strategy and Freight Management Update

I am writing to inform you of some changes to the Council's freight policies and freight management practices.

As you will be aware, we have been operating our Freight Strategy and Freight Assessment and Prioritisation Mechanism (FAPM) for many years. The strategy was developed under a different national policy framework, for example at the time government was considering the Road Traffic Reduction Act and HGV road user charging, none of which were taken forward in the subsequent years. It has therefore proven difficult to deliver some of the aspirations within the strategy, as the circumstances have changed.

The Council needs to prepare its fourth Local Transport Plan (LTP4) to cover the Local Plan period to 2036. As part of the development of LTP4 the Freight Strategy will need to be reviewed and replaced with a more realistic and contemporary approach that takes account of recent national transport policy changes.

The Council does not have the resources to undertake freight management studies as well as deliver LTP4 and contribute to the development of the Local Plan. It would also be inappropriate to continue applying the FAPM to identify freight management interventions in advance of the outcome of the Freight Strategy review.

As such, the application of the Freight Assessment and Prioritisation Mechanism (FAPM) will be halted until the review of the Freight Strategy has been completed. This will provide the opportunity to reflect on the FAPM's effectiveness, evaluate the outcomes achieved using this process, and decide whether it is fit for purpose under the revised Freight Strategy.

The ongoing freight studies will be concluded but no further freight management studies will be commenced until LTP4 and the review of the Freight Strategy have been completed, which is likely to be in 2020.

I trust that you will understand the reasons for my decision.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B Wayman'.

Cllr Bridget Wayman
Cabinet Member – Highways and Transport

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